

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:
said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 0.8 to 4.7 μm .

2. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 1, wherein said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Sr_\alpha Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, and “ α ” satisfies $\alpha = 1 - \beta$, “ β ” satisfies $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.50$ and “ γ ” satisfies $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.50$.

3. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 1-~~or 2~~,
wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

4. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1.

5. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 4, wherein a maximum value Q_{max} of “ Q ” ($Q = |X|/R$, wherein “ X ” is reactance and “ R ” is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of

thickness vertical vibration at 24 MHz is 8 or larger.

6. (Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Ca, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Ca and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 1.0 to 4.5 μm .

7. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 6, wherein said

$M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Ca_{1-\beta}Ln_\beta)Bi_\gamma Ti_4O_{15}$, and “ β ” satisfies $0.01 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$ and “ γ ” satisfies $3.80 \leq \gamma \leq 4.20$.

8. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 6-~~or 7~~,

wherein a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO.

9. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 6 to 8~~claim 6.

10. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 9, wherein a maximum value Q_{max} of “Q” ($Q = |X|/R$, wherein “X” is reactance and “R” is resistance) between a resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to a third harmonic wave of thickness vertical vibration at 60 MHz is 6 or larger.

11.(Original) A piezoelectric ceramics having ceramic particles, wherein:

said ceramic particles comprises

bismuth layer compound containing at least Ba, Sr, Ln (note that Ln is a lanthanoid element), Bi, Ti and O and including $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal (M^{II} is an element composed of Ba, Sr and Ln) as a main component, and

an oxide of Mn and an oxide of Ge as a subcomponent; and

an average particle diameter by the code length measuring method is 0.4 to 3.2 μm .

12. (Original) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 11, wherein

said $M^{II}Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ type crystal is expressed by a composition formula $(Ba_{1-\alpha}$

$_{\beta}Sr_{\alpha}Ln_{\beta})Bi_{\gamma}Ti_4O_{15}$, and

“ α ” satisfies $0.1 \leq \alpha \leq 0.6$, “ β ” satisfies $0.05 \leq \beta \leq 0.5$ and “ γ ” satisfies $3.90 \leq \gamma \leq 4.30$

in said composition formula.

13. (Currently Amended) The piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in claim 11-~~or 12~~,

wherein

a content of said oxide of Mn is 0.1 to 1.0 wt% in terms of MnO , and

a content of said oxide of Ge is 0.05 to 0.5 wt% in terms of GeO_2 .

14. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric element, comprising a piezoelectric

substance formed by the piezoelectric ceramics as set forth in ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~claim 11.

15. (Original) The piezoelectric element as set forth in claim 14, wherein a maximum value Q_{max} of “Q” ($Q = |X|/R$, wherein “X” is reactance and “R” is resistance) between a

resonant frequency and an antiresonant frequency with respect to the fundamental wave of thickness-shear vibration at 8 MHz is 23 or larger.